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09/753,111	01/02/2001	Aditya Krishnan	SNY-P4152	1923
24337	7590	08/26/2004	EXAMINER	
SHELEHEDA, JAMES R				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2614				

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/753,111	KRISHNAN ET AL.
	Examiner James Sheleheda	Art Unit 2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooks et al. (Brooks) (5,825,166).

As to claim 1, Brooks discloses a television set-top box (DET, 100), comprising:

a tuner (501; Fig. 5) for receiving signals (column 19, lines 43-52) representing television programming (column 5, lines 51-59) and delivering the signals representing television programming to a display interface (Fig. 1; NTSC decoder, 137; column 8, lines 31-40, 49-59 and column 9, lines 44-59);

a central processor (CPU, 105; Fig. 1; column 8, lines 22-30);

a communication device (NIM, 101; Fig. 1), operatively coupled to the central processor (column 8, lines 1-21), suitable for sending and receiving data over a communication medium (column 7, lines 33-49); and

a swipe card reader (card reader, 153; Fig. 1), operatively coupled to the central processor (see Fig. 1), to receive data from a swipe card passed through the swipe card reader (column 11, lines 21-30).

As to claim 7, Brooks discloses wherein the swipe card comprises on of a credit card (column 11, lines 21-30) and a debit card (column 11, lines 29-30).

As to claim 8, Brooks discloses wherein the swipe card reader forms an integral part of the set top box (see Fig. 1).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ramsey Catan (US2002/0073416).

As to claim 2, while Brooks discloses the use of a swipe card (column 11, lines 21-30) and a storage means (system memory, 120), he fails to specifically disclose storing data associated with the swipe card.

In an analogous art, Ramsey Catan discloses a set top box used for home shopping (paragraph 15, lines 1-4) which stores information (spending limits and authentication information; paragraph 21) associated with a particular credit card (paragraph 20, lines 1-4 and paragraph 21) for the typical benefit of allowing an

allowing a credit card holder to authenticate account users and delegate monetary access (paragraph 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks system to include storing data associated with the swipe card, as taught by Ramsey Catan, for the typical benefit of allowing a credit card holder to authenticate account users and delegate monetary access in a home shopping environment.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Jia et al. (Jia) (5,991,402).

As to claim 3, while Brooks discloses program means (operating system, 204), operating on the programmed processor (105; column 12, lines 28-35), for communicating information (column 8, lines 17-21) read from the swipe card (wherein a home shopping service using a credit card inherently involves communicating the information; column 11, lines 21-30) using the communication device (column 7, lines 33-36), he fails to specifically disclose communicating information to a credit card clearing house.

In an analogous art, Jia discloses a system for on demand purchasing (column 3, lines 21-25) wherein a user's computer will contact a clearinghouse (column 7, lines 62-66) and transfer swipe card information to the clearinghouse (credit card; column 7, lines 66-67 and column 8, lines 1-2) for the typical benefit

of enabling a clearinghouse to validate a credit card purchase before it is authorized (column 7, lines 66-67 and column 8, lines 1-2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks system to include communicating information to a credit card clearing house, as taught by Jia, for the typical benefit of enabling a clearinghouse to validate a credit card before authorizing a home shopping purchase.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Koppel et al. (Koppel) (US2002/0026418).

As to claim 4, while Brooks discloses program means (operating system, 204), operating on the programmed processor (105; column 12, lines 28-35), for communicating information (column 8, lines 17-21) read from the swipe card (wherein a home shopping service using a credit card inherently involves communicating the information; column 11, lines 21-30) using the communication device (column 7, lines 33-36), he fails to specifically disclose communicating information to a merchant.

In an analogous art, Koppel discloses an online payment system (Fig. 1; paragraph 12) wherein a user's computer will contact a merchant online (paragraph 44) and transfer swipe card information to the merchant (credit card information; column paragraph 44) for the typical benefit of providing a merchant with credit card information to bill a purchase (paragraph 44, lines 12-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks system to include communicating information to a merchant, as taught by Koppel, for the typical benefit of enabling a merchant to properly bill a customer for a transaction.

7. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Audebert (5,887,065).

As to claim 9, while Brooks discloses wherein the swipe card reader is internal to the set top box (see Fig. 1), he fails to specifically disclose wherein the swipe card reader comprises an external swipe card reader coupled to the set top through a suitable interface.

In an analogous art, Audebert discloses an authentication system for home shopping (column 5, lines 15-31) wherein a computer (142; Fig. 9) is coupled to an external card reader (141; Fig. 9) through an interface (column 16, lines 25-32). This provides the typical benefit of providing a card reader which can be connected to or removed from the system as needed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks system to include an external swipe card reader coupled to the set top through a suitable interface, as taught by Audebert, for the typical benefit of providing a more dynamic system by utilizing a card reader which can be connected to or removed as needed.

8. Claims 5, 6, 10, 12-15, 17, 19-23, 25, 26, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks in view of Reeder (6,014,636).

As to claim 5, while Brooks discloses program means (operating system, 204), operating on the programmed processor (105; column 12, lines 28-35), for communicating information (column 8, lines 17-21) read from the swipe card (wherein a home shopping service using a credit card inherently involves communicating the information; column 11, lines 21-30) using the communication device (column 7, lines 33-36), he fails to specifically disclose communicating information to a swipe card issuing authority.

In an analogous art, Reeder discloses an interactive television system providing home shopping capabilities (column 2, lines 54-59) wherein information read from a swipe card (column 5, lines 43-51) is transmitted to the credit card issuer (column 5, lines 52-55) for the typical benefit of enabling the credit card issuer to identify if the transaction is authorized and if sufficient funds are available (column 5, lines 55-59, 66-67 and column 6, lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks' system to include communicating information to a swipe card issuing authority, as taught by Reeder, for the typical benefit of enabling the credit card issuer to identify if the transaction is authorized and if sufficient funds are available.

As to claim 6, while Brooks discloses program means (operating system, 204), operating on the programmed processor (105; column 12, lines 28-35), for

receiving information (column 8, lines 17-21), he fails to specifically disclose receiving information regarding a credit card account in response to a transaction originating from the set-top box; the query including information relating to a swipe card passed through the swipe card reader.

In an analogous art, Reeder discloses an interactive television system providing home shopping capabilities (column 2, lines 54-59) wherein information regarding a credit card account is received at a user terminal (column 6, lines 5-13) in response to a transaction originating from the set-top box (purchase using a swipe card; column 5, lines 43-51) and wherein the query includes information relating to a swipe card passed through a swipe card reader (information on whether the account is authorized to make a purchase; column 5, lines 55-59) for the typical benefit of enabling the credit card issuer to notify a user if their transaction is authorized and if sufficient funds are available (column 5, lines 55-59 and column 6, lines 5-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks' system to include receiving information regarding a credit card account in response to a transaction originating from the set-top box; the query including information relating to a swipe card passed through the swipe card reader, as taught by Reeder, for the typical benefit of enabling the credit card issuer to notify a user if their transaction is authorized and if sufficient funds are available.

As to claim 10, Brooks discloses a method of activating a swipe card using a set top box (DET, 100) having a swipe card reader (153) associated therewith (see Fig. 1), the method comprising:

reading a magnetic stripe on the swipe card using the swipe card reader (column 11, lines 21-30); and

using communications capabilities of the set-top box (NIM, 101; column 8, lines 17-21), transmitting information read from the swipe card (wherein a home shopping service using a credit card inherently involves transmitting the information; column 11, lines 21-30).

While Brooks disclose transmitting information read from the swipe card, he fails to specifically disclose transmitting the swipe card information to an authority authorized to activate the swipe card and transmitting authentication information to the authority authorized to activate the swipe card.

In an analogous art, Reeder discloses an interactive television system providing home shopping capabilities (column 2, lines 54-59) wherein authenticating information (user identifying address; column 3, lines 45-64) is stored in a set top box associated with a user ITV station (column 3, lines 49-52) and transmitted with the credit card information (column 5, lines 43-51) to an authority **authorized** to activate the credit card (wherein the credit card issuer is authorized to activate their issued credit cards; column 5, lines 52-56) for the typical benefit of providing a means to verify the identity of a user in a billing system (column 3, lines 55-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks' system to include transmitting authenticating information to an authority **authorized** to activate the credit card, as taught by Reeder, for the typical benefit of providing a means to verify the identity of a user and account information in a home shopping environment.

As to claim 12, Brooks and Reeder disclose wherein the swipe card comprises on of a credit card (see Brooks at column 11, lines 21-30) and a debit card (see Brooks at column 11, lines 29-30).

As to claim 13, Brooks and Reeder disclose wherein the authority authorized to activate the swipe card comprises a swipe card issuer (see Reeder at column 5, lines 52-55).

As to claim 14, Brooks discloses a method of carrying out a swipe card transaction (column 11, lines 21-30) using a television set-top box (DET, 100), comprising:

receiving a swipe card passed through a swipe card reader (column 11, lines 21-30) associated with the set-top box (internal to the set top; see Fig. 1) to read data associated with the swipe card (column 11, lines 21-24); and

transmitting the data (column 8, lines 17-21) associated with the swipe card (wherein a home shopping or banking service using a credit card inherently involves communicating the information; column 11, lines 21-30 and column 26,

lines 5-15) using a communication device associated with the set-top box (column 7, lines 33-36) to a recipient (wherein the credit card shopping information must be transmitted to a recipient; column 11, lines 21-30).

While Brooks discloses a storage device associated with the set top box (system memory, 120), he fails to specifically disclose retrieving authenticating information from the storage device and transmitting the authenticating information to a recipient.

In an analogous art, Reeder discloses an interactive television system providing home shopping capabilities (column 2, lines 54-59) wherein authenticating information (user identifying address; column 3, lines 45-64) is stored in a set top box associated with a user ITV station (column 3, lines 49-52) and transmitted with purchase and payment information to a recipient (ITV server, 14; column 3, lines 38-44) for the typical benefit of providing a means to verify the identity of a user in a billing system (column 3, lines 55-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks' system to include retrieving authenticating information from the storage device and transmitting the authenticating information to a recipient, as taught by Reeder, for the typical benefit of providing a means to verify the identity of a user and account information in a home shopping environment.

As to claim 15, Brooks and Reeder disclose transmitting further authenticating information received from a user to the recipient (PIN number; see Reeder at column 3, lines 20-22).

As to claim 17, Brooks and Reeder disclose transmitting a purchase (see Reeder at column 3, lines 40-44) using an account associated with the swipe card (see Reeder at column 3, lines 55-64) to the recipient (ITV server, 14; see Reeder at column 3, lines 38-44).

As to claim 19, Brooks and Reeder disclose receiving a notice that a transaction associated with the swipe card has been authorized from the recipient (see Reeder at column 5, lines 55-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to further modify Brooks and Reeders' system to further include receiving a notice that a transaction associated with the swipe card has been authorized from the recipient, as further taught by Reeder, for the typical benefit of providing a user with notification that their purchase request is authorized and successful (column 4, lines 43-47).

As to claim 20, Brooks and Reeder disclose wherein the swipe card comprises on of a credit card (see Brooks at column 11, lines 21-30) and a debit card (see Brooks at column 11, lines 29-30).

As to claim 21, Brooks and Reeder disclose wherein the recipient comprises a swipe card issuer (see Reeder at column 5, lines 52-59).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to further modify Brooks and Reeder's system to further include wherein the recipient comprises a swipe card issuer, as further taught by Reeder, for the typical benefit of enabling the credit card issuer to identify if the transaction is authorized and if sufficient funds are available (column 5, lines 55-59, 66-67 and column 6, lines 1-5).

As to claim 22, Brooks and Reeder disclose wherein the transaction comprises making a purchase (see Brooks at column 11, lines 25-27).

As to claim 23, Brooks discloses a storage media storing instructions (operating system, 204), which, when executed on a programmed processor (105; column 12, lines 28-35), carry out a method of carrying out a swipe card transaction (column 11, lines 21-30) using a television set-top box (DET, 100), comprising:

reading a magnetic stripe on the swipe card using the swipe card reader (column 11, lines 21-30); and

using communications capabilities of the set-top box (NIM, 101; column 8, lines 17-21), transmitting information read from the swipe card (wherein a home shopping service using a credit card inherently involves transmitting the information; column 11, lines 21-30).

While Brooks disclose transmitting information read from the swipe card, he fails to specifically disclose transmitting the swipe card information to an authority authorized to activate the swipe card and transmitting authentication information to the authority authorized to activate the swipe card.

In an analogous art, Reeder discloses an interactive television system providing home shopping capabilities (column 2, lines 54-59) wherein authenticating information (user identifying address; column 3, lines 45-64) is stored in a set top box associated with a user ITV station (column 3, lines 49-52) and transmitted with the credit card information (column 5, lines 43-51) to an authority **authorized** to activate the credit card (wherein the credit card issuer is authorized to activate their issued credit cards; column 5, lines 52-56) for the typical benefit of providing a means to verify the identity of a user in a billing system (column 3, lines 55-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks' system to include transmitting authenticating information to an authority **authorized** to activate the credit card, as taught by Reeder, for the typical benefit of providing a means to verify the identity of a user and account information in a home shopping environment.

As to claim 25, Brooks discloses a storage media storing instructions (operating system, 204) which, when executed on a programmed processor (105; column 12, lines 28-35), carry out a method of carrying out a swipe card

transaction (column 11, lines 21-30) using a television set-top box (DET, 100), comprising:

receiving a swipe card passed through a swipe card reader (column 11, lines 21-30) associated with the set-top box (internal to the set top; see Fig. 1) to read data associated with the swipe card (column 11, lines 21-24); and

transmitting the data (column 8, lines 17-21) associated with the swipe card (wherein a home shopping or banking service using a credit card inherently involves communicating the information; column 11, lines 21-30 and column 26, lines 5-15) using a communication device associated with the set-top box (column 7, lines 33-36) to a recipient (wherein the credit card shopping information must be transmitted to a recipient; column 11, lines 21-30).

While Brooks discloses a storage device associated with the set top box (system memory, 120), he fails to specifically disclose retrieving authenticating information from the storage device and transmitting the authenticating information to a recipient.

In an analogous art, Reeder discloses an interactive television system providing home shopping capabilities (column 2, lines 54-59) wherein authenticating information (user identifying address; column 3, lines 45-64) is stored in a set top box associated with a user ITV station (column 3, lines 49-52) and transmitted with purchase and payment information to a recipient (ITV server, 14; column 3, lines 38-44) for the typical benefit of providing a means to verify the identity of a user in a billing system (column 3, lines 55-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks' system to include retrieving authenticating information from the storage device and transmitting the authenticating information to a recipient, as taught by Reeder, for the typical benefit of providing a means to verify the identity of a user and account information in a home shopping environment.

As to claim 26, Brooks and Reeder disclose transmitting further authenticating information received from a user to the recipient (PIN number; see Reeder at column 3, lines 20-22).

As to claim 28, Brooks and Reeder disclose transmitting a purchase (see Reeder at column 3, lines 40-44) using an account associated with the swipe card (see Reeder at column 3, lines 55-64) to the recipient (ITV server, 14; see Reeder at column 3, lines 38-44).

As to claim 30, Brooks and Reeder disclose receiving a notice that a transaction associated with the swipe card has been authorized from the recipient (see Reeder at column 5, lines 55-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to further modify Brooks and Reeder's system to further include receiving a notice that a transaction associated with the swipe card has been authorized from the recipient, as further taught by Reeder, for the typical

benefit of providing a user with notification that their purchase request is authorized and successful (column 4, lines 43-47).

9. Claims 11, 18, 24 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks and Reeder as applied to claims 10, 14, 23 and 25 above, and further in view of Lorsch (5,903,633).

As to claims 11 and 24, while Brooks and Reeder disclose contacting an authority **authorized** to activate the swipe card, they fail to specifically disclose receiving a notice that the swipe card has been activated.

In an analogous art, Lorsch discloses a system wherein information is read from a swipe card (column 3, lines 18-21) and transmitted (column 3, lines 21-25) to a authority authorized to activate the card (central computer; column 3, lines 58-65) and a notice is received from the authority stating that the swipe card has been activated (column 3, lines 58-65) for the typical benefit of providing notification that the swipe card has been successfully activated (column 3, lines 58-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks and Reeder's system to include receiving a notice that the swipe card has been activated, as taught by Lorsch, for the typical benefit of providing notification that the swipe card has been successfully activated.

As to claims 18 and 29, while Brooks and Reeder disclose contacting a recipient, they fail to specifically disclose receiving a notice that the swipe card has been activated.

In an analogous art, Lorsch discloses a system wherein information is read from a swipe card (column 3, lines 18-21) and transmitted (column 3, lines 21-25) to a authority authorized to activate the card (central computer; column 3, lines 58-65) and a notice is received from the authority stating that the swipe card has been activated (column 3, lines 58-65) for the typical benefit of providing notification that the swipe card has been successfully activated (column 3, lines 58-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks and Reeder's system to include receiving a notice that the swipe card has been activated, as taught by Lorsch, for the typical benefit of providing notification that the swipe card has been successfully activated.

10. Claims 16 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks and Reeder as applied to claims 14 and 25 above, and further in view of Koppel.

As to claims 16 and 27, while Brooks and Reeder disclose transmitting information relating to an account associated with the swipe card to the recipient, they fail to specifically disclose transmitting a query.

In an analogous art, Koppel discloses an online payment system (Fig. 1; paragraph 12) wherein a user's computer will contact a recipient (the issuer; paragraph 50) and transmit a query (balance inquiry; Fig. 6; paragraphs 50 and 51) for the typical benefit of allowing a user to request information concerning the swipe card (paragraph 50).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Brooks system to include transmitting a query, as taught by Koppel, for the typical benefit of enabling a user to request information concerning a swipe card's balance and purchase history.

### ***Conclusion***

11. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.

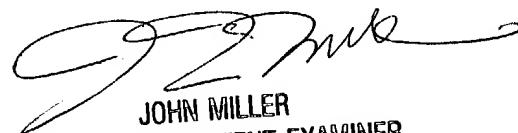
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Sheleheda whose telephone number is (703) 305-8722. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (703) 305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James Sheleheda  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2614

JS



JOHN MILLER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600